



The Ames Intelligencer

Published by Ames Heritage Association, Inc.
Member of American Association for Local & State History

Bauge Log Home . . . It was a moving experience



In November 1987, members of the Bauge House committee, representing the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board, inspected the Bauge log house northeast of Huxley. Farwell Brown had contacted the present owners of the house, Everett and Avis Steensland of Huxley, who had agreed to assist the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board in preserving the log structure as a piece of local history.

The log home, constructed in the mid-1860s, was covered with wooden siding, and a kitchen had been added to the north side of the building. The home measured 24 feet in length, 16 feet in width, and 16 feet in height, including the attic above the main level of the building. Inspection of the logs under the siding indicated the log house to be in good structural condition and suitable for moving.

In February 1988, representatives of the two organizations visited the Bauge home with Ron Holland of Forest City, a professional structural mover. Ron agreed to move the log home, at a very reasonable rate, from its site north of Huxley to its new site at McFarland Park north of Ames.

Throughout the spring and summer, numerous volunteers, including Don Faas' trade and industrial class at Ames High School, the Iowa Youth Conservation Corps, and the Ames Town and Country Kiwanis, worked to prepare the house for its move. These preparations included site work and removing plaster from the inside walls of the home. Unfortunately, the kitchen addition was mistakenly removed. Dale Nelson was hired to construct the field-stone foundation for the building at McFarland Park.



During this time, Everett and Avis Steensland of Huxley, owners of the home, officially donated the log building to the Story County Conservation Board. An agreement was signed between the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board for management, insurance protection, restoration, and programming for the cabin.

After inspecting the structure, historical consultant Darrell Henning of Decorah presented a report to the Ames Heritage Association containing suggestions for restoration of the Bauges home. According to Darrell, the floor plan of the home indicates that it was built by persons of Norwegian descent. He also reported that the log structure remains in excellent condition and retains a good deal of its original integrity.

Among Darrell's recommendations were to restore the kitchen addition which was added to the home within 20 years of its construction; to choose a specific time period for restoration purposes, preferably the first generation of Bauges; to contact family members to learn more about early furnishings, living in the cabin, and family history; to remove the plaster from the white-washed log walls to explore changes in the construction of the original building; and to construct a raised fieldstone foundation for the cabin on its new site.



Moving Day



Finally, between Christmas and New Year's Day, the moving day arrived. With the cooperation of more than a dozen agencies, a parade of escort vehicles followed the log home as it traveled nearly 20 miles to its new fieldstone foundation at McFarland Park, having stood on its site north of Huxley for almost 120 years.

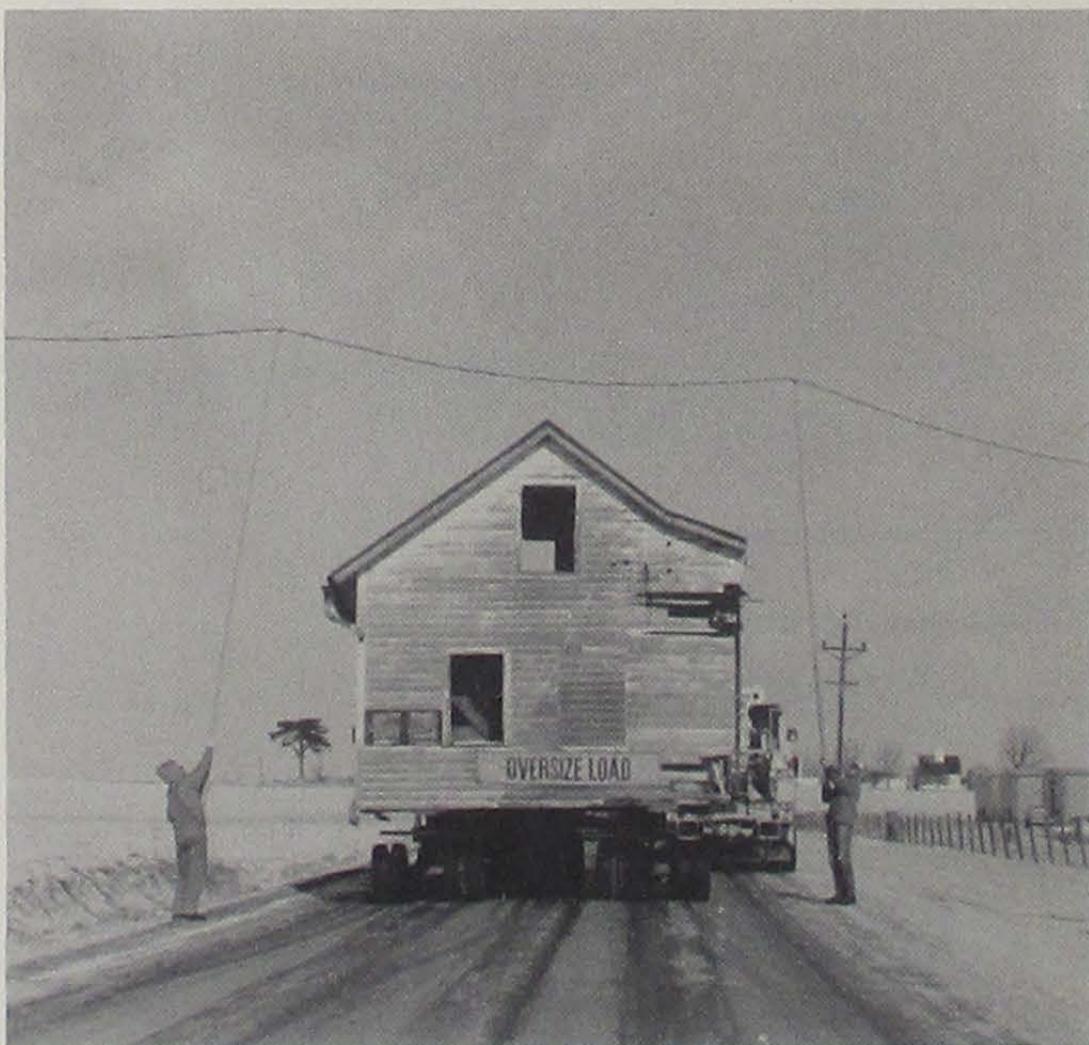


A number of agencies were involved with technical aspects of the move. Most of these agencies waived fees for their services due to the historical nature of the project.

These cooperating groups include the City of Ames, including staff from the police department, city manager's office, and line crews; Story County Engineer and Sheriff's Department; Iowa Highway Patrol; Northwestern Bell; Huxley Cooperative Telephone Company; Iowa Electric Light and Power Company; Hardin County REC; Marshall County REC; Iowa Department of Transportation; Chicago and Northwestern Transportation Company; and Heritage Cablevision.



The log home, one of the few remaining log homes in the county, moved along icy gravel roads, ducked under utility lines, crossed railroad tracks, required police escort, and highlighted the front page of the newspaper and television news coverage. The route from north of Huxley to McFarland Park took three hours. To lower the log home slowly onto the fieldstone foundation using a series of hydraulic jacks took another three hours. The Bauge Family log home was finally settled into its new site for the winter, awaiting restoration in the months to come.





The next step is to develop a long-range development and management plan for restoration of the log house. The house will be restored to its 1880-1900s appearance. A stove, loom, and quilting frame have been donated by the relatives of Marjorie Sharp for use in the house, and Harvey Emmons of Marshalltown donated a Norwegian shipping box.

Dozens of generous people have contributed cash to help the project along. Elden and Marguerite Bauge of Ames, Leda Bauge Barrie of California, Helen Koch of Illinois, and other members of the Bauge family have been most helpful and enthusiastic about the project, providing financial support, as well as information about the log home and Bauge family history. A booklet detailing Bauge family information will be prepared in conjunction with an open house and dedication to be scheduled as the restoration process proceeds.

Story County pioneers Nils and Synneva Bauge were natives of Norway who settled on the farm north of Huxley in 1867. They were the first of the Bauge family to live in the log home. It is to Nils and Synneva Bauge—and their descendants—that this small piece of local history is dedicated.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE.

Election Results Announced

At the annual membership meeting held in January, the following individuals were elected as officers of the Board of Directors:

President: Jack Adams

Vice-President: Don Faas

Secretary: Sharon Wirth

Treasurer: Nancy Ezarski

Individuals serving on the Board of Directors include the following:

Terms to expire 1990:

Jim Duea

Rodney Fox

Lee Himan

Jay Cole Simser

Sharon Wirth

Terms to expire 1991:

Farwell Brown

Cele Burnett

Don Faas

Polly Gossard

Suzanne Kelly

Terms to expire 1992:

Jack Adams

Jan Halverson

Everett Ritland

Dwight Herold

Nancy Ezarski

Please enroll me as a 1989 member of the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Type of Membership:

Regular (\$5.00)

Sustaining (\$100)

Business and Organization (\$25.00 or more)

Life (\$1000)

*Please make checks payable to the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION and mail to
Treasurer Nancy Ezarski, P.O. Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.*

Thank you!

**Ames Heritage Association
Officers**



From meetings of the Ames Heritage Association:

- Reports from Treasurer Jan Halverson, indicating a year-end balance of \$3,681.99, including income from membership dues, interest, Bauge House and Hoggatt School donations, historical home tour and workshop, and sale of Hoggatt School Christmas tree decorations, as well as expenditures for printing and postage for the newsletter, printing brochures and stationery, Hoggatt School and Bauge House expenses, and the historical home tour and workshop;
- Report from Treasurer Jan Halverson concerning the Bauge House budget, indicating a balance of \$1,108.13 as of January 9, 1989, including income of \$3,035.00 in donations, and expenses of \$1,926.87 for Ron Holland House-moving of Forest City, City of Ames moving license, and historical consultant Darrell Henning of Decorah consulting fees;
- Report from Treasurer Jan Halverson indicating membership of approximately 310 members;

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- Discussion of the Hoggatt School landscaping project, indicating need for a source of prairie plants, volunteer labor to plant and manage the garden, and a nearby and reliable source of water;
- Discussions concerning membership recruitment;
- Updates concerning the Bauge House project, including documenting the original site plan, constructing fund-raising souvenirs, and moving and winterizing the log home;
- Report from Farwell Brown concerning the possible loan of a portrait of Oakes Ames to the Ames Public Library;
- Report from the election committee (see report elsewhere); and
- Enjoyed historical and architectural consultant Barbara Beving Long's talk and slide program about the architectural legacy of the firm of Proudfoot and Bird, et al, with approximately 50 people in attendance.

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The Ames Heritage Association meets the second Thursday of every month (September through May) at 7:30 p.m. at the Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the second Thursday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The *Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year—winter, spring, and fall.

The Ames Intelligencer
Ames Heritage Association
P.O. Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

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Ames, Iowa 50010